

Cluster formations in deformed states for ^{28}Si and ^{32}S

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We study cluster formation in strongly deformed states for ^{28}Si and ^{32}S using a macroscopic-microscopic model. The study is based on calculated total-energy surfaces, which are the sums of deformation-dependent macroscopic-microscopic potential-energy surfaces and rotational-energy contributions. We analyze the angular-momentum-dependent total-energy surfaces and identify the normal- and super-deformed states in ^{28}Si and ^{32}S , respectively. We show that at sufficiently high angular momenta strongly deformed minima appear. The corresponding microscopic density distributions show cluster structure that closely resemble the $^{16}\text{O}+^{12}\text{C}$ and $^{16}\text{O}+^{16}\text{O}$ configurations. At still higher deformations, beyond the minima, valleys develop in the calculated surfaces. These valleys lead to mass divisions that correspond to the target-projectile configurations for which molecular resonance states have been observed. We discuss the relation between the one-body deformed minima and the two-body molecular-resonance states.

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A rich variety of nuclear structure data in the s - d shell region provides an excellent opportunity to investigate how a system transitions between one-body-like mean-field and two-body-like cluster structures [1, 2]. Because of recent progress in experimental techniques, it has been possible to determine that strongly deformed states exist in ^{36}Ar and ^{40}Ca , by the observation of γ -ray cascades typical of rotational bands [3, 4]. These bands are called super-deformed (SD) bands. Such new have triggered renewed interest in whether the strongly deformed states exist in other s - d shell nuclei.

In this connection, the existence of such states in ^{28}Si and ^{32}S has been theoretically suggested [5–8]. Many experimental searches for, and studies of such states have been performed [9, 10]. An important feature of nuclear structure in the s - d shell region is that the densities of strongly-deformed one-body states often exhibit significant cluster structure [11, 12], similar to the $^{16}\text{O}+^{16}\text{O}$ configuration suggested to exist in ^{32}S [7, 13, 14]. Recently, the existence of alpha-cluster states in ^{32}S was clearly shown in elastic $^{28}\text{Si}+\alpha$ scattering experiments [10]. However, the existence of the strongly deformed states and the mechanism of the cluster formations in ^{28}Si and ^{32}S have not yet been well established.

Another important observation is the molecular resonances emerging just below the Coulomb barrier in the two-body entrance channel, in both the $^{16}\text{O}+^{12}\text{C}$ and $^{16}\text{O}+^{16}\text{O}$ reactions leading to ^{28}Si and ^{32}S , respectively. That is, the molecular-resonance states would consist of the $^{16}\text{O}+^{12}\text{C}$ and $^{16}\text{O}+^{16}\text{O}$ cluster components, similar to the clusters in the strongly deformed states in ^{28}Si and ^{32}S . It is thus interesting to investigate the relation between the one-body deformed states and the two-body molecular-resonance states and the association with the cluster formations in the deformed states.

Two different theoretical approaches have been used to describe the deformed states in the s - d shell nuclei. One is nuclear structure calculations using one-body wave functions. Leander and Larsson identified several distinct minima with exotic shapes using the macroscopic-microscopic model [15]. Minima at high angular momenta were also investigated based

on a cranking model for the rotational inertia [16]. However, the ℓ^2 term in their mean-field potential leads to many unphysical minima at large deformations. Moreover, strongly necked-in shapes are not possible in the Nilsson perturbed-spheroid (ϵ) parametrization.

The SD states and the low-lying excited states have also been treated in Hartree-Fock-type (HF) self-consistent mean-field calculations [5, 19], often coupled with the generator-coordinate method (GCM) [20, 21]. For ^{32}S , Kimura and Horiuchi suggested the existence of an SD band containing the $^{16}\text{O}+^{16}\text{O}$ cluster components, based on the antisymmetrized molecular dynamics coupled with GCM [7]. They also showed that a third rotational band with $N = 28$, where N is the principal quantum number of the relative motion between clusters, in the $^{16}\text{O}+^{16}\text{O}$ configuration connects to the molecular-resonance states. The existence of the normal-deformed (ND) state in ^{28}Si and its relation to the $^{16}\text{C}+^{12}\text{O}$ molecular resonances were also investigated [8, 22].

The second approach is reaction calculations using a two-body potential model appropriate to the entrance channel. Those studies are mainly based on an optical potential which well reproduces the experimental elastic or inelastic cross sections [14, 23–27]. For ^{32}S , Ohkubo and Yamashita [14] calculated the SD bands with the deep $^{16}\text{O}-^{16}\text{O}$ potential [14]. They recognized three rotational bands with $N = 24, 26$, and 28 , and showed that the lowest and the third bands correspond to the SD band and the molecular resonances, respectively. Kocak *et al.* also obtained a similar SD band with $N = 24$ using the alpha-alpha double-folding potential [28].

The aim of this paper is to show cluster formations in the strongly deformed states for ^{28}Si and ^{32}S . We find that consideration of rotational contributions to the energy is essential. In the study here we apply for the first time the macroscopic-microscopic model, so successful in the description of fusion and fission reactions in heavy-mass systems [17, 29–32], to very light nuclei. The model allows us to describe both one-center deformed and two-center cluster-like configurations with mass asymmetry within the same model framework. In

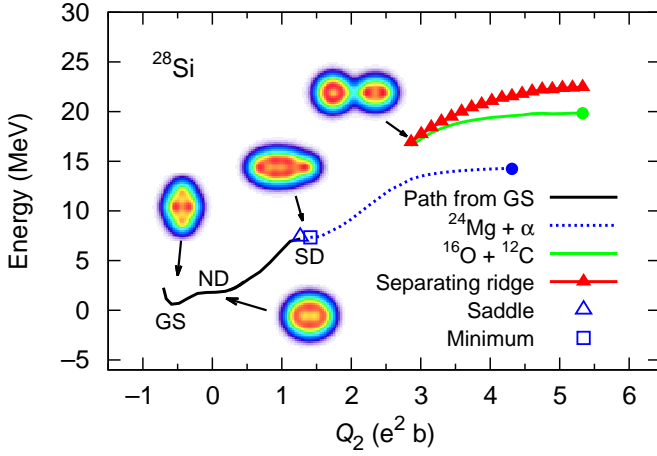


FIG. 1. (Color online) Potential energy curve for ^{28}Si versus the quadrupole moment. The open square and SD denote the superdeformed minimum. The absolute minimum is denoted by GS. The solid line denotes the potential versus Q_2 near the ground state, along a trajectory that locally minimizes the energy. The gray (green) and dotted lines denote the only relatively prominent valleys found in the one-body potential-energy surface. They correspond to shapes with asymmetries similar to the $^{16}\text{O}+^{12}\text{C}$ and $^{24}\text{Mg}+\alpha$ reaction channels. The solid line with superimposed triangles is the ridge separating these two channels.

this approach the clusters are joined by a neck region with a lower single-particle density. For lighter mass systems, such treatments are essential for a unified description of the whole process, because the scission point shape closely resembles that of the saddle point, as has been well established in fusion-fission processes below the Businaro-Gallone point [18]. We calculate and analyze total-energy surfaces which are the sums of a potential-energy surface and a rotational-energy contribution, which both are functions of five shape-degrees of freedom. We use the immersion technique to identify reaction channels that we expect correspond to molecular resonances including various mass asymmetric divisions. We show that in this model minima with density distributions corresponding to the cluster configurations of $^{16}\text{O}+^{12}\text{C}$ and $^{16}\text{O}+^{16}\text{O}$ appear at high angular momenta.

We use the three-quadratic-surface (3QS) parametrization [31, 32] to describe nuclear shapes in a five-dimensional deformation space. The shape degrees of freedom are a quadrupole-moment parameter Q_2 , a neck-related parameter η , left- and right-fragment deformation parameters, ϵ_{f1} and ϵ_{f2} , and a mass-asymmetry parameter α_g . The parameter η describes the curvature of the middle body. The parameter ϵ is the Nilsson perturbed-spheroid parameter. Near scission we have to a very good approximation $\alpha_g = (M_1 - M_2)/(M_1 + M_2)$, where M_1 and M_2 are the masses of the left and right nascent fragments, respectively. The microscopic single-particle potential is calculated by folding a Yukawa function over the shape or “sharp-surface generating volume” [29].

We calculate the adiabatic one-body potential-energy surface in a five-dimensional deformation space for ^{28}Si and ^{32}S and analyze their structure using the immersion method.

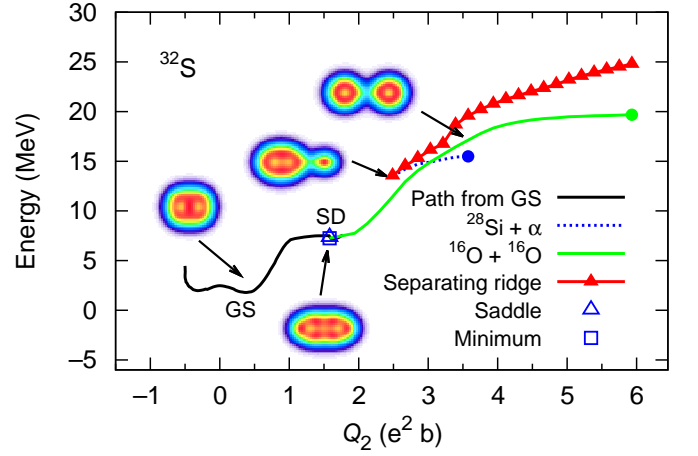


FIG. 2. (Color online) Potential energy curve for ^{32}S versus the quadrupole moment. The gray (green) and dotted lines denote paths leading to valleys in the one-body potential energy surface corresponding to strongly necked-in one-body shapes with asymmetries similar to those of the $^{16}\text{O}+^{16}\text{O}$ and $^{28}\text{Si}+\alpha$ reaction channels. The other symbols are the same as Fig. 1.

Details of the model are given in Ref. [17]. The parameters correspond to FRLDM(2002) [33]. We calculate the potential energies at $41 \times 15 \times 15 \times 15 \times 35$ grid points for Q_2 , η , ϵ_{f1} , ϵ_{f2} , and α_g , respectively. For α_g grid points we use $-0.025(0.025)0.825$; the fragment shape grid points are the same as Ref. [17]; in η the choice is similar. We take into account the shape dependence of the A^0 and Wigner terms in our calculations [34]. However, in the form introduced in our model the Wigner energy is zero for the $N = Z$ nuclei we consider here. Near the ground states, we perform β -constrained calculations, which describe better one-body shapes for small deviations from spherical shape. For the purpose of comparing with calculations in other shape parameterizations we sometimes give the deformations of our shapes in terms of the β shape parameters, obtained by expanding the 3QS shapes in spherical harmonics [30]. We calculate nuclear density distributions and determine the number of nucleons in the left and right fragments by integrating the single-particle densities [35].

Figures 1 and 2 show the calculated results for ^{28}Si and ^{32}S as “optimal” one-dimensional potential-energy curves imbedded in the five-dimensional space, versus the quadrupole moment. Nuclear densities at points of special interest are also given. The calculated potential-energy curves for ^{28}Si and ^{32}S are quite similar to other calculations [5, 7, 8, 19–21]. At larger Q_2 valley-like structures appear in the 5D surface; we show curves corresponding to the bottom of the only two relatively prominent, that is deep and persistent, valleys we identify. The scission points in each reaction channel are denoted by solid circles. The one-body ground state connects continuously to these two-body cluster channels.

For ^{28}Si , we identify two paths: one given by the dotted line, leading to the $^{24}\text{Mg}+\alpha$ reaction channel, and a second, given by the gray line, leading to $^{16}\text{O}+^{12}\text{C}$ reaction channel. Those are separated by a potential ridge, shown as a solid

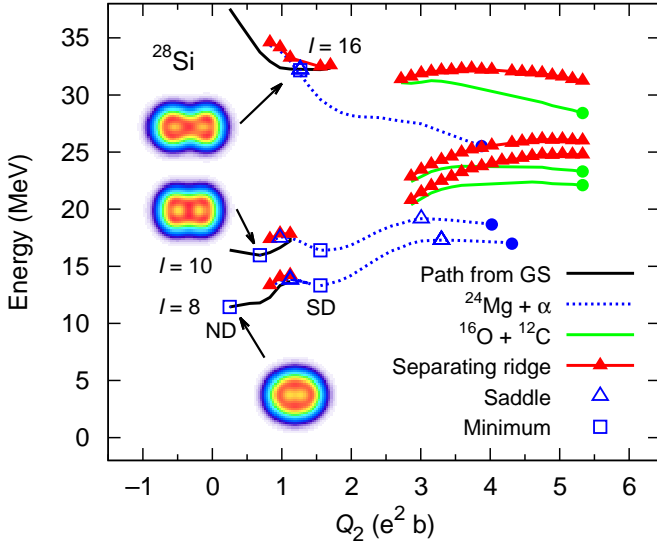


FIG. 3. (Color online) Potential energy curves versus quadrupole moment for $I = 8, 10$, and 16 for ^{28}Si . The shape configuration of the ND minimum is changed to the $^{16}\text{O}+^{12}\text{C}$ like cluster one at $I = 10$. The symbols are the same as Fig. 1.

line with superimposed triangles. The calculated ground-state shape is oblate with $Q_2 = -0.59$ (e^2b). We obtain a flat potential energy curve near $Q_2 = 0.05$ (e^2b), which is consistent with the HF calculation of Ref. [19]. Although this flat area corresponds to a much smaller beta than the $\beta_2 \sim 0.5$ of the ND minimum found in Ref. [8] we label this flat part at $Q_2 = 0.05$ (e^2b) ND. For higher angular momenta it evolves into a more well-localized minimum. We furthermore identify the additional energy minimum at $Q_2 = 1.41$ (e^2b) at $\beta = 0.68$, denoted by the open square, with the SD minimum [8]. In spherical shell-model terminology this is interpreted as a $4p-16h$ ($4\hbar\omega$) state with the intruder single-particle orbital of $1/2[330]$ (labeled with the Nilsson asymptotic quantum numbers $\Omega^\pi[Nn_z\Lambda]$) at the Fermi energy for both protons and neutrons. From our *deformed* mean-field model point of view there are no particle-hole excitations, since this is the lowest possible energy at this deformation. In this sense, our calculated results and those at $J^\pi = 0^+$ of Ref. [8] are quite similar to each other, both as relates to the shape configurations at the ground-state, the ND, and the SD minima and to the single particle configurations (see. (a), (b), and (c) of Fig. 2 and (a) and (b) of Fig. 4 in Ref [8]). The optimal potential-energy curves obtained by [8] for the $^{24}\text{Mg}+\alpha$ and $^{16}\text{O}+^{12}\text{C}$ channels in ^{28}Si are also quite similar to the results here.

For ^{32}S , we identify two paths, one leading to the $^{16}\text{O}+^{16}\text{O}$ (the gray line) the reaction channel, the other to the $^{28}\text{Si}+\alpha$ (the dotted line) reaction channel, and the separating ridge (the solid line with the filled triangles). The calculated ground-state is prolate with $Q_2 = 0.39$ (e^2b) corresponding to $\beta_2 = 0.24$. We also obtain an additional, almost symmetric minimum at $Q_2 = 1.58$ (e^2b) corresponding to $\beta = 0.72$, denoted by an open square. This minimum is the SD state. Again, in spherical shell-model terminology this is interpreted as a $4p-12h$ ($4\hbar\omega$) state with the intruder single-particle orbital

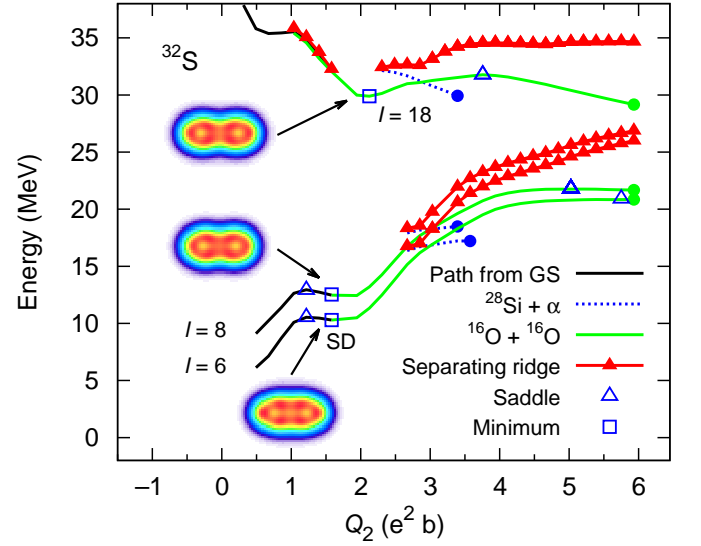


FIG. 4. (Color online) Potential energy curves at the intrinsic angular momentum $I = 6, 8$, and 18 for ^{32}S versus the quadrupole moment. The shape configuration of the SD minimum is changed to the $^{16}\text{O}+^{16}\text{O}$ like cluster one at $I = 8$. The symbols are the same as Fig. 2.

$1/2[330]$ at the Fermi energy for both protons and neutrons.

We now calculate the total energy versus angular momentum (and Q_2) for ^{28}Si and ^{32}S . We calculate the macroscopic rigid-body moment of inertia for the shapes of interest and obtain the total energy by adding the shape-dependent rotational energy to the five-dimensional potential-energy surface. The rotational energy E_R is then given by $E_R = \hbar^2 I(I+1)/2\mathcal{J}_\perp$, where I denotes the collective rotational angular momentum in the intrinsic frame and \mathcal{J}_\perp denotes the rotational moment of inertia. We only consider rotations around the ρ axis, which is perpendicular to the symmetry axis (z axis) [36]. Even if the two fragments are well separated, we treat such configurations as rigid-body rotors. We analyze the total potential-energy surfaces obtained at each I , using the water immersion method.

Figures 3 and 4 show, for three different angular momenta, total potential energy curves, along one-dimensional “minimal-energy” paths imbedded in the five-dimensional deformation space for ^{28}Si and ^{32}S , respectively. The ND and SD minima are present for ^{28}Si and the SD minimum for ^{32}S . In the figures, the ND and SD minima at each I are indicated by open squares. The dotted lines through these minima are the optimal pathways from ground-state-like shapes to the $^{24}\text{Mg} + \alpha$ and $^{28}\text{Si} + \alpha$ channels. The other symbols are the same as Figs. 1 and 2. Nuclear densities at points of special interest are also given. The potential pockets at the ND minima vanish as the angular momentum increases.

Figure 5 shows the calculated rotational bands in the ND and SD minima. In the figure, the total energies at the ND and SD minima are denoted by solid lines with open squares. For comparison, we plot experimental data as solid squares. However, experimental band assignments have not been well confirmed, except for the ND state of ^{28}Si and the alpha-cluster

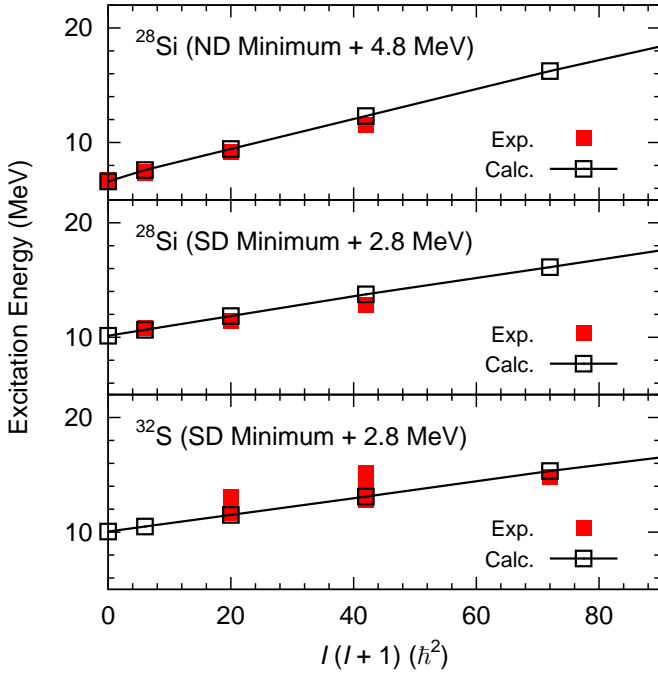


FIG. 5. (Color online) Rotational levels in the ND and SD minima versus the intrinsic angular momentum I for ^{28}Si and ^{32}S . The solid line with the open square denotes the total energies at the ND or SD minima. The solid square denotes experimental data taken from Refs. [13, 39]. We normalize the calculated band-head energies to experimental data by shifting the ND minimum for ^{28}Si by +4.8 MeV and the SD minima for ^{28}Si and ^{32}S by +2.8 MeV.

states of ^{32}S .

For the ND state of ^{28}Si , the band assignments have been confirmed by γ -ray measurements [37]. We thus directly compare our calculated results with those data. In the top panel of the figure, we normalize the calculated bandhead energies to the lowest levels of the experimental data, because our calculated energies show some discrepancy with respect to the experimental data. After this normalization, the calculated level spacings agree well with data, which suggests that the calculated deformation of the ND minimum is realistic. In comparison to other calculations, we find that our calculated rotational bands of the ND state for ^{28}Si correspond to those with the lowest N , namely $N = 18$ in Refs. [22, 27].

For the alpha-cluster states of ^{32}S , those were recently clearly identified in $^{24}\text{Mg}+\alpha$ elastic scattering experiments. However, we do not identify minima corresponding to those states in our calculations. The experimentally deduced moment of inertia for those states is about two times as large as our calculated results of the SD states (see the bottom panel of Fig. 5), indicating that it is necessary to take into account rotations at smaller Q_2 than in the present calculations, in order to reproduce this experimental result. At such small Q_2 , triaxial deformations are important. To access triaxial shapes a model extension such as Ref. [17, 38] is necessary. After such extension, the Jacobi shape transitions in the β - γ deformation space, as shown in Ref. [9], could be studied.

The rotational bands for the SD states of ^{28}Si and ^{32}S have

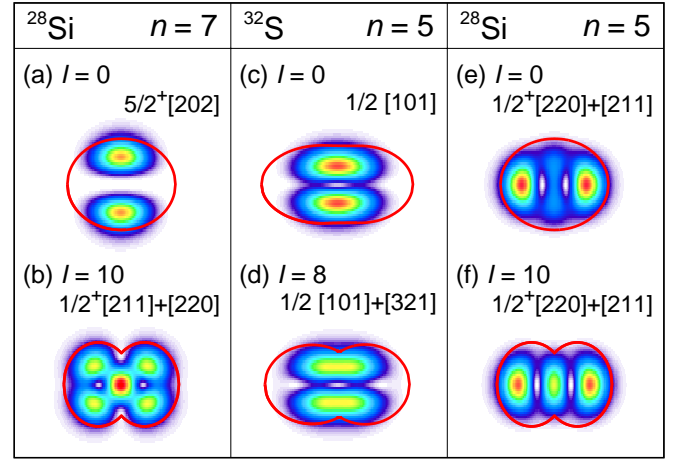


FIG. 6. (Color online) Density distributions of neutron single-particle wave functions for ^{28}Si and ^{32}S . The solid line denotes the half depth of the mean-field potential. We normalize the color to the density distribution at the maximum of each plot at $I = 0$.

been not confirmed yet. Therefore we are limited to plotting possible candidates proposed by Refs. [13, 39] for those states. The middle and bottom panels of Fig. 5 shows the calculated results. In the figure, we also perform the same normalization as the ND state of ^{28}Si to the experimental results. We consider that our calculated result for the SD state of ^{32}S corresponds to that with $N = 24$ of Refs. [7, 14, 28]. After the normalizations, we see that the behaviors of the calculated results for the SD states of both ^{28}Si and ^{32}S are similar to the experimental moment of inertia proposed by Refs. [13, 39]. However, further experimental investigations are necessary for establishing the existence of the SD states and for band assignment.

At high angular momentum, the asymmetry at the shape configurations of the ND and SD minima for ^{28}Si and ^{32}S become close to the $^{16}\text{O}+^{12}\text{C}$ and $^{16}\text{O}+^{16}\text{O}$ divisions, respectively. In Figs. 3 and 4, we can clearly see drastic shape transitions, that is, from densities with one-center to two-center cluster-like configuration. For the ND and SD minima for ^{28}Si and ^{32}S , the neck formation occurs suddenly at $I = 10$ and 8, respectively.

There are two important mechanisms for such clusterization: (i) intersection between a high- Ω level, whose energy increases with deformation and is mainly localized in the “equator” region, and a low- Ω level whose energy decreases with deformation (intruder level) and is mainly localized in the “polar” regions, (ii) mixing of single-particle levels with high quantum number. The former can be seen in the shape transition of the ND minimum for ^{28}Si . At $I = 0$, the neutron level at the Fermi surface consists of the $5/2^+[202]$ component ((a) in Fig. 6), which forms the surface of the middle body part in the total density. At $I = 10$, an transition occurs between this last occupied level and the intruder level, which is an admixture of $1/2^+[211]$ (75.3%) and $[220]$ (16.4%) and which now becomes the highest occupied level as shown in (b) in Fig. 6. In this case, the wave-function density shifts from the

surface of the middle body into the two nascent fragments. The second mechanism (ii) is at play in the SD minimum for ^{32}S . At $I = 0$, the neutron single particle at the seventh level consists of the $1/2[101]$ component ((c) in Fig. 6). At $I = 8$, the components of $[321]$ is slightly mixed in this level. The single-particle density of the middle body becomes low due to $1/2-[101]$ (93.2%) and $[321]$ (4.3%), as shown in (d) in Fig. 6. The component of $[321]$ describes stretching of the single-particle densities and $[321]$ is strongly fragmented into many of the levels in both ^{28}Si and ^{32}S .

The other interesting behavior of the single-particle wave function that influences the clusterization is the neck formation. The neutron single-particle wave function of the fifth level for ^{28}Si consists of the $1/2^+[220]$ (66.9%) and $[211]$ (26.8%) components ((e) in Fig. 6). With increasing angular momentum, the $[220]$ component increases, whereas the $[211]$ component decreases, which forms the neck part between two fragments. At $I = 10$, the wave function is described by $1/2^+[220]$ (80.3%) and $[211]$ (17%), as shown in (f) in Fig. 6. This trend can be also seen in the $[220]$ component for ^{32}S . Although it seems that two fragments are well separated at the high angular momentum, those are tightly bonded by the neck formation.

In more elaborate microscopic calculations, the lowest level $J = 0^+$ would contain components of intrinsic states with different I . The highest J is limited to what is obtained when all the spins are aligned, although the potential pocket still exists at high I . In this respect, the obtained density distribution at the ND minimum of $I = 10$ for ^{28}Si is very similar to that at $J = 0^+$ of Ref. [8]. Consequently, the ND and SD states can contain cluster components even at $J = 0^+$.

Our calculations show a plausible mechanism for the origin of the molecular resonances. In the calculations, we can identify the potential valleys leading to the $^{24}\text{Mg}+\alpha$ and $^{16}\text{O}+^{12}\text{C}$ channels in ^{28}Si and to $^{28}\text{Si}+\alpha$ and $^{16}\text{O}+^{16}\text{O}$ channels in ^{32}S , as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Also, in this study we cannot clearly identify any other valleys and associated density clusters in the potential surface. Consequently there is an interesting correspondence between the valley structures obtained in our calculations and the observed reaction channels associated with molecular resonances. Expressed differently we could say that when entrance-channel target/projectile mass ratios are similar to the one-body density clusters corresponding to the calculated valleys in the potential-energy surfaces do we experimentally observe molecular resonances.

As shown in this study, the highly excited SD and ND states for ^{28}Si and ^{32}S contain significant $^{16}\text{O}+^{12}\text{C}$ and $^{16}\text{O}+^{16}\text{O}$ cluster components, respectively. We expect that those two states relate to the observed molecular resonances, because their mass asymmetry at high angular momentum are very close to the target/projectile combinations in the entrance channel for which molecular-resonances are observed. It is thus interesting to investigate how those states in the one-body system relate to the molecular-resonances in the two-body reaction channels.

A key question is whether the molecular resonances arise because of effects after fusion, during formation of the compound system or because of effects in the final stages of

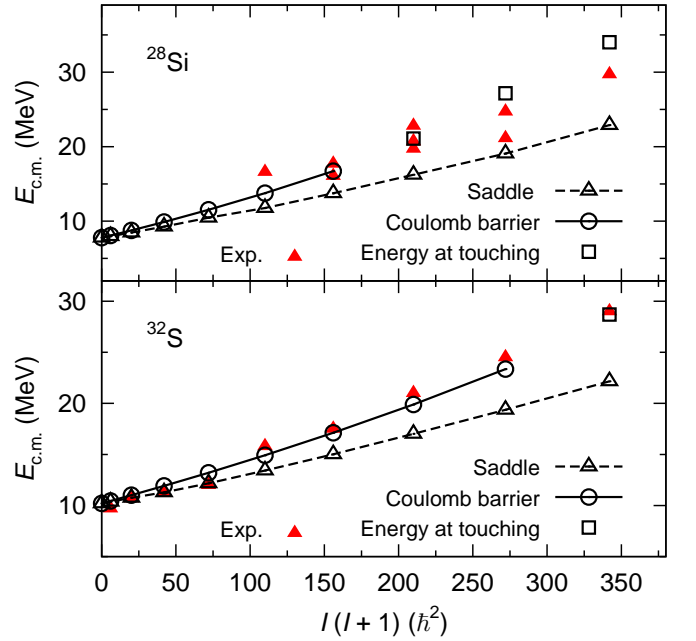


FIG. 7. Heights of the Coulomb barrier versus the orbital angular momentum in the $^{16}\text{O}+^{12}\text{C}$ (the top panel) and the $^{16}\text{O}+^{16}\text{O}$ (the bottom panel) reactions. The potential energy is measured from the infinitely separated two nuclei. The solid line with the circles denotes the calculated heights of the Coulomb barrier. The open square denotes the energy at the touching point when the potential pocket in the fusion barrier vanishes. The solid triangle denotes the average energies of experimental data for the molecular-resonance states at each angular momentum taken from Refs. [14, 27]. The dashed line with the open triangles denotes the heights of the saddle points leading to the $^{16}\text{O}+^{12}\text{C}$ and $^{16}\text{O}+^{16}\text{O}$ reaction channels in the calculated potential-energy surface for ^{28}Si and ^{32}S , respectively. The calculated heights of the saddle points are shifted so as to fit to the Coulomb-barrier height at $\ell = 0$.

the two-body heavy-ion collision. The molecular resonances emerge just below the Coulomb barrier in the two-body reaction channels, indicating that those states exist in the region of slightly overlapping densities of colliding two nuclei. It is thus unclear whether those two nuclei are strongly or weakly coupled with each other, corresponding to the one-body “sticking” or the two-body “freely rotating” limits [40], respectively. To investigate those two limits, we calculate the Coulomb barrier heights of the freely rotating and sticking limits, and investigate the correlation between those and the molecular-resonance states.

For the freely rotating limit, we calculate the Coulomb-barrier heights as a function of the orbital angular momentum I for the $^{16}\text{O}+^{12}\text{C}$ and $^{16}\text{O}+^{16}\text{O}$ reactions. In the calculation, we use the Yukawa-plus-exponential model, which is the same framework as used in the present calculations of the potential-energy surface and is well tested in many two-body reactions [41, 42]. The Coulomb interaction energy is calculated for two point charges. The centrifugal potential is $\hbar^2 I(I+1)/2\mu r^2$, where μ is the reduced mass and r is the center-of-mass distance between colliding nuclei. That is, the moment of inertia in the two-body system, $\mathcal{I}_{(2bd)}$, is given by

$\mathcal{J}_{(2bd)} = \mu r^2$, corresponding to the rotational energy of two freely rotating rigid bodies. When the fusion barrier does not go over a maximum during the approach of the two colliding heavy ions, that is it keeps rising until touching, we follow conventional practice and define the “Coulomb barrier” as the energy at touching. In the sticking limit, the Coulomb barrier heights correspond to that of the saddle point in the calculated one-body potential-energy surface.

Figure 7 shows the resulting Coulomb-barrier heights measured relative to two infinitely separated nuclei (the open circle with the solid line). The energy at the touching point is denoted by the open square. The average energies of experimental data at each ℓ for the molecular-resonance states tabulated in Refs. [14, 27] are denoted by solid triangles. For comparison, we also plot the height of the saddle points leading to the $^{16}\text{O}+^{12}\text{C}$ and $^{16}\text{O}+^{16}\text{O}$ reaction channels in the calculated potential-energy surface for ^{28}Si and ^{32}S (the open triangle with the dashed line). We shift the calculated height of the saddle points so as to fit to the Coulomb-barrier height of the two-body reactions at $I = 0$, because we here focus on discussing their moments of inertia, not its absolute energies.

In the figure, we can clearly see the calculated Coulomb-barrier heights strongly correlate with the experimental data of the molecular-resonance states, whereas the slope of the height of the saddle points differs from those. The moment of inertia for the molecular-resonance states is well reproduced by the freely rotating $\mathcal{J}_{(2bd)}$, rather than the one-body ridged rotor \mathcal{J}_{\perp} , indicating that the molecular resonances are governed by effects in the two-body entrance channel.

In the deformed states, the two clusters show the property of the one-body ridged rotor as shown in Fig. 5, whereas in the molecular-resonance states, they can freely rotate. The former comes from the single-particle wave functions tightly bonding two clusters as shown in Fig. 6 (b) and (f). That is, the one-body ridged rotor would change to the two-body freely rotating rotor, if such bonding wave functions of the neck part vanish by the development of two clearly separated clusters. Such wave functions thus play an important role in transitioning from the one-body deformed and the two-body molecular-resonance states.

In summary, we have investigated cluster formation in the one-body ND and SD states for ^{28}Si and ^{32}S and their relation to the molecular resonance states. We calculated the total-energy surfaces with inclusion of a rotational-energy contribution in a five-dimensional deformation space and analyze these as functions of angular momentum. We identify the ND and SD minima in the potential-energy surface for ^{28}Si and ^{32}S . The obtained deformed minima are quite similar to those proposed by other theoretical models. The level spacings of the rotational bands for those deformed minima are in good agreement with the experimental data. The nuclear densities in the ND and SD minima become very cluster-like when the angular momentum reaches $I = 8$ and 10, respectively. We show how cluster configurations develop due to changing occupation of specific single-particle levels with increasing deformation and angular momentum. When we consider the paths from the one-body ND and SD states to the $^{12}\text{C}+^{16}\text{O}$ and $^{16}\text{O}+^{16}\text{O}$ channels and change the inertia from that of a one-body rigid rotor to that of a freely rotating system for the corresponding two-body reaction channels, we can show that the molecular resonances are connected to the ND and SD states.

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